Secondary runway at Indira Gandhi International Airport

613. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indira Gandhi International Airport does not have a secondary runway, it is prone to develop cracks in the apron, taxi tracks and in the fly-over which leads to departure area;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor: and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to remove these defects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The Indira Gandhi International Airport has a Secondary runway. At times, cracks develop on the surface of apron, taxi track and fly-over. These appear due to usage over a period of time and the seasonal temperature variations. These are repaired/sealed from time to time.

Nuclear Part between Russia and USA

614. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia and U.S.A. have agreed to sign another Nuclear Pact; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be signed and what are the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir.

However, the leaders of the United States of America and the Soviet Union have agreed in principle to negotiate a Treaty to bring about a 50 per cent reduction of their strategic nuclear weapon. These negotiations have been continuing since the US—Soviet bilateral arms reduction talks resumed in Geneva in March, 1985. A number of issues still remain to be resolved. It is, therefore not possible to say when the proposed treaty is likely to be signed.

Comments of opposition leaders of Sri Lanka on Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

615. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Sri J. N. Dixit had told a Colombo publication that in private conversation neither Mrs. Sirimavo Bhandarnaike, the SLFP leader and former Prime Minister nor her son Mr. Anura Bhandarnaike, the leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka Parliament, had ever told him that they would abrogate the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Agreement if the SLFP came to power; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this had led to a sharp public reaction from both Mrs. Bhandarnaike and Mr. Anura Bhandarnaike and they have charged the Indian High Commissioner with blatant interference in the internal politics of Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Seat availability in the Indian Airlines

616. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of seats in Indian Airlines is likely to be increased with the induction of three 737 Boeing planes, shortly;

(b) if so, the routes on which these flights would be introduced; and

(c) to what extent the growing shortage of planes in the country will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.